

PATENT
APPLICATION NO.: 10/662,374
Attorney Docket No.: ST3001-0066
Response and Amendment

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration, reexamination, and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Submission of Substitute Specification

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended by Examiner Tran during a brief telephonic interview regarding proposed changes to the specification and claims. As discussed during the telephonic interview, Applicant is submitting a substitute specification for the convenience of docketing the various changes to the specification made by this Amendment. Applicant respectfully submits that the changes made by the Amendment are consistent with the specification as originally filed and are made only to correct syntax and translational errors that may have occurred during translation of the present application's priority document. No new matter is included with the changes to the specification in the present Amendment.

Objection to the Claims

At page 4 of the Office Action, Claim 4 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. By this Amendment, Claim 4 is cancelled and Claim 1 is rewritten to include the allowable features of claim 4 (and intervening claim 3), thus making the objection by the Examiner moot. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection and allowance of all pending claims, including claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 and 5-7.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, beginning at page 2, Claims 1, and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), as reciting subject matters that allegedly are anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,639,360. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable features of claims 3 and 4. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of Claims 1 and 5-7 are not anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,639,360 and that the rejection is now moot in view of the

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present amendments. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

It should be noted that the cancellation of claims 3 and 4 are without prejudice to Applicant's presenting these claims and their broader independent base claim again in a future amendment or continuation application.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, beginning at page 3, Claims 2 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as reciting subject matter that is allegedly obvious, and therefore allegedly unpatentable, over the disclosure of U.S. Patent No. 6,639,360. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and requests reconsideration.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable features of claims 3 and 4. Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, and because dependent claim 2 includes all the features of its base claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject matter of claim 2 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention. Claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and therefore the rejection of claim 3 is now moot. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the present patent application is in condition for allowance. An early indication of the allowability of this patent application is therefore respectfully solicited.

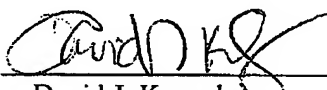
If the patent examiner believes that a telephone conference with the undersigned would expedite passage of this patent application to issue, they are invited to call on the number below.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. If, however, additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby

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petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees necessitated by this paper, and to credit all refunds and overpayments, to our Deposit Account 50-2821.

Respectfully submitted,

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